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EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

United Nations Staff

Note by the secretariat

1. In its resolution 1997/25, the Commission on Human Rights, gravely concerned at the recent increase in attacks and the use of force against United Nations and other personnel acting under the authority of United Nations operations as well as personnel of international humanitarian organizations, including murder, physical and psychological threats, hostage-taking, shooting at vehicles and aircraft, mine-laying, looting of assets and other hostile acts, drew attention to the relevant principles on protection found in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies and the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

2. In the same resolution, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to commission a comprehensive study from within existing resources, to shed further light on the safety and security problems which United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation, taking into account the evolution of the nature of United Nations missions around the world and the greater responsibilities of those personnel, giving due consideration to the views of the main United Nations agencies concerned and of relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

GE.99-16500 (E)

3. In its resolution 1998/37, the Commission repeated its concerns noted in paragraph 1 above as well as its requests for the study referred to in paragraph 2 above, which it requested be submitted at its fifty-sixth session.

4. The United Nations Security Coordinator has informed the secretariat that the General Assembly has already requested that a comprehensive review of security arrangements be carried out and a report submitted to the Millennium Assembly. Consequently, the Security Coordinator proposed that the secretariat advise the Commission on Human Rights that the report requested in resolutions 1997/25 and 1998/37 is being prepared on an inter-agency basis to reflect the actual situation and will be provided to the Commission in due course.

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